

Capital Area Road and Bridge District Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 2:00 PM, June 29, 2020

Location: Senate Committee Room E, State Capitol

Members Present: Chairman J. H. Campbell, Jr., Governor's Appointee
Parish President Clint Cointment, Ascension Parish
Fred Raiford (representing Mayor-President Sharon Broome), E. B. R. Parish
Parish President Riley Berthelot, West Baton Rouge Parish
Hank Grace (representing Parish President Mitchell Ourso), Iberville Parish
Dr. Shawn Wilson, Secretary, DOTD

Members Absent: Parish President Layton Ricks, Livingston Parish

Minutes:

- Chairman Campbell called the meeting to order-roll called-quorum present
- Minutes from the January 27, 2020 meeting were approved.
- Department specific update by Project Manager, Paul Vaught on the status of the contract preparation and execution with the Project's selected Consultant.
 - There has been a delay in issuing the "Notice To Proceed" (NTP) largely due to the significant amount of time and effort that has been spent to align the expectations of DOTD with the consultant's understanding of those expectations on the scope, magnitude, and complexity of the project/work.
 - The process to insure the most up-to-date and correct rates for the consultants proved challenging- provisional rates were installed in the contract and will be adjusted with audited rates as they come through.
 - A Request for Funds has been sent to FHWA and the Contract was sent for signatures
 - The Notice to Proceed is expected to be issued in one week from June 29th. It is believed by the DOTD that the schedule is very achievable with the opportunity to capitalize on accelerating that schedule during the next 24 months.

Secretary Wilson noted that on very large projects such as this, 150 days to issue the NTP is consistent with the time needed for proper due diligence in contract negotiations on the front-end in order to stay within the scope of the allocated funds for the project.

- Summary-Agreement has been reached on:
 - Scope
 - Detailed Assessment
 - Compensation with the Consultants
 - Fully Defined Task list-completed
 - Time Line on Task List-completed

- Introductory remarks by Jonathan Charbonnet, Atlas Technical Consultants (ATC), the project's selected consultant
 - Phase 1 will include a high-level Environmental overview to create constraint maps to narrow down the acceptable alternatives. Another major component is the Traffic Modeling with a Toll and Revenue Stud. Along with environmental impact, these studies will determine where the bridge would be placed.
 - Formal initiation of the Environmental Impact Study has begun with Providence Engineering chosen as the Consultant.
 - It is expected that the extensive scoping and traffic models for such a large area, already taken before issuing the NTP, will have potential time savings as we move through the process.
 - On behalf of ATC, Mr. Charbonnet thanked the District for the opportunity and thanked DOTD as well as Paul Vaught for working through the extensive scoping process with them and giving them a strong foundation. With such a large corridor to work with, the extra time taken in this first phase will ensure success in the second phase.

- Mr. Raiford requested that Federal Highway Administration be consulted early on to determine if the data we have, will suffice to move through the processes that have been submitted for us to expedite the environmental. It will be key to closely follow their process and the guidelines for eligibility of federal funds on the project, if needed.

- Chairman Campbell reiterated the need to insure that the public's prior dollars are well spent with no duplication of services. He requested copies of the final version of the completed task list and timeline and asked, what this District could do assist with the workflow to get things done during the next 6 months. Mr. Charbonnet responded that assistance with the public outreach piece by meeting with focus groups, Homeowner Associations (HOA's), Elected Officials and others, would be important to gather input and to provide data for larger studies which will be evaluated. Nevertheless, the environmental impact study would be key.

- Secretary Wilson stressed the importance of District members and other parish elected officials attending public meetings. As learned from prior large projects, their physical presence in the room during public meetings is significant. It is equally important to put a face on the project. DOTD will communicate to the public at large and will provide the District with a calendar including meeting details. Public involvement is expected to run concurrently with modeling, while environmental public meetings will be closer to the end.

- Chairman Campbell asked if there are any decisions that CARB-D will need to make through the end of this year to expedite the work. Jonathan Charbonnet responded, "not initially", however, he and Mr. Vaught agree on the importance of the public outreach component.

- In response to the timing of public involvement from Mr. Berthelot, Mr. Charbonnet said the public outreach will run concurrently with the other tasks, the corridor that will be studied is from I-10 to the Sunshine Bridge. They would like the public to be excited about the project and ATC will stay ahead of the public outreach.

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- Regarding other Bridge Project updates from DOTD, Secretary Wilson reported that Congressman Garrett Graves is working on congressional language regarding Corridors of National Significance which would add value to the project, if approved. DOTD will follow the necessary steps and do its Due Diligence so that Louisiana would be eligible for inclusion should Congressman Graves be successful in this endeavor.

- Chairman Campbell gave a brief update on the status of the Economic Impact Study by Dr. Loren Scott: Two prior proposed bridge crossing locations, the Horace Wilkerson Bridge, opened in 1968 and the Israel LeFleur Bridge in Lake Charles, opened in 1962 have been chosen for further analysis and will be the benchmark for his study. This would change if a different crossing is considered. Dr. Scott plans to have the Study completed by Mid-August. District Commissioners will have time to review the completed report and Dr. Scott and will attend a future meeting for discussion. (A copy of the update on the status of the Economic Impact Study prepared by Dr. Scott is attached to these minutes and made a part hereof.) Copies of this update were provided to each attending Commissioner/Designee.

- Since there is no Treasurer, under new business Chairman Campbell reported that Interest Income has been earned on the \$500,000 Dollars appropriated to the District directly, and that the bank Statement balance was \$506,657.25 on May 31, 2020. Funds in this account will be used as payment to Dr. Scott when his work is completed.

- Secretary Wilson confirmed that none of the 5 Million Dollars appropriated by the Legislature for this project to the DOTD has been allocated or spent by DOTD to any costs associated with the project or the environmental process. . Paul Vaught, Project Manager will provide quarterly reports in the future on all funds expended from this allocation as they are spent and after completion of the auditing process and will create a streamlined report and update for the District.

- There was no new business and there were no public comments.

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by a motion from Mr. Berthelot.

Secretary
Capital Area Road and Bridge District

Date: _____

Attest:

Chairman
Capital Area Road and Bridge District